

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



EPA Field Team collecting surface water samples

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #8
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)

Date: 8/15/2015

Reporting Period: 8/14/2015 0700 – 8/14/2015 1900

1. Introduction

1.1 Description of Threat

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at www.epa.gov/goldkingmine.

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: 844 – 607 – 9700.

2.1 Operations Section

NMED informed EPA that the Town of Morningstar's reserve had dropped drastically and the Town only had an estimated 48 hours of available supply, as of August 14, 2015. EPA is acting quickly to mobilize a temporary pump to facilitate an emergency connection between Farmington and Morningstar.

On August 14, 2015, NMED and the Department of Health lifted the ban on using private water wells.

EPA will not hold any community meetings on Saturday, August 15, 2015, or Sunday, August 16, 2015. Community meetings will resume on Monday, August 17, 2015.

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

EPA is processing requests received from New Mexico residents for approximately seventy private drinking water well samples that will be analyzed for total metals, dissolved metals, major cations/anions, and nitrate. EPA will finish the requests for private water well samples that have already been received but will not accept any new sampling requests. There are twenty-five requests remaining and EPA will finish the requests on August 15, 2015.

On August 14, 2015, EPA collected thirty-four private drinking water well samples.

Southside Mutual Domestic and Flora Vista water systems have requested that EPA sample their public water supply wells before the systems resume operations. EPA will collect the four samples requested on August 15, 2015.

Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar has approximately forty-eight hours of water supply remaining. Morningstar and Farmington are working on connecting their water systems. EPA has ordered holding tanks. EPA estimates the connection will be completed on August 17, 2015. The pump left Houston mid-day on August 14, 2015, and is on the way to Morningstar. EPA is looking into having New Mexico and Texas waive the need for the truck to stop at weighing stations and to have law enforcement escort for the truck.

Irrigation Ditch Sediment Sampling

On August 14, 2015, EPA collected twenty-six irrigation ditch sediment samples.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

On August 14, 2015, EPA collected ten surface water and sediment samples.

On August 14, 2015, EPA received validated data for nine surface water and sediment samples taken on August 11, 2015. On August 14, 2015, EPA received preliminary data for six surface water and sediment samples taken on August 13, 2015,

Agriculture and Livestock Water

On August 14, 2015, EPA delivered water to seven agriculture and nine livestock locations, totaling 328,914 gallons. Since August 11, 2015, EPA has made deliveries to 20 agriculture and 17 livestock locations, totaling 909,207 gallons. There are currently twenty trucks delivering water.

On August 13, 2015, EPA received a request for fifteen bales of Alfalfa grass. On August 14, 2015, EPA received a request for 244 bales of hay. EPA is working on meeting these requests.

Drinking Water Systems Update

Based on conversation with the State of New Mexico and drinking water systems on August 12, 2015, the following is the list of affected water systems and their status:

System Name	Population	# Days Water Available
Aztec Domestic Water System	6800	10 days
Farmington Water System	47000	60 days
Lower Valley WUA	8428	6 days
Morningstar Water Supply System	6423	48 hours *
Northstar WDWCA	4123	30 days
Southside Mutual Domestic	1593	3 - 5 days/get water from Aztec
Upper La Plata WUA	2265	Get water from Aztec and Farmington
Flora Vista	4300	1 day/get water from Aztec
Total Population	80,392	

* The Morningstar Water Supply System information is updated as of August 14, 2015. For more information, see the Operations Section.

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report

Funding Source	EPA Expended Payroll	EPA Expended Travel	Contract Costs	TOTAL Expended	Estimated Daily Burn Rate
EPA	\$128,805	\$28,750	\$1,854	\$790,321	\$949,730

3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA
USFWS
NMED
ATSDR
NM Department of Health
NM Office of the State Engineer
NM Department of Game and Fish
County of San Juan – New Mexico

4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	23
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	5
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 RIC – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Logistics – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	5
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	12
Region 6 Contractors in Field	33